Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):*

(*a*) The Officer in charge of the Depot is termed as Depot Keeper and not Depot Manager as stated in the question. One Depot Keeper was transferred to another department.

(*b*) Mr. M. Govindan Ezhuthassan.

(*c*) He was transferred on 27th Dhanu 1121.

(*d*) and (*e*) Mr. Ezhuthassan is a permanent hand of the Co-operative Department. His services were requisitioned by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and hence he was transferred to that department.

(*f*) The Officers in charge of the godowns are designated as Godown Keepers. The Godown Keepers who were in charge of the Godowns for the period as stated were (1) K. N. Ramankutty Menon (2) B. V. Narayana Rao (3) P. K. Narayana Pai.

PREPARATION OF JAGGERY FROM TODDY

298. Mrs. Dakshayani Velayudhan *(Nominated):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the quantity of toddy sold by license holders per year;

(*b*) the quantity of jaggery that can be prepared from that toddy per year;

(*c*) the quantity of jaggery that was imported into the State in 1121;

(*d*) the quantity of jaggery manufactured in the State in 1121?

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Public Health):*

(*a*) About 93,34,127 gallons.

(*b*) About 76,29,458 lbs.

(*c*) About 4,960 tons.

(*d*) No information is available regarding the actual quantity produced. But a quantity of about 1,272 tons of cane jaggery were purchased by Government from the local production.

HOUSE RENT—PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE ALLOWED

299. Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Irinjalakkuda):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) are the Government aware that the percentage of increase in rent allowable in case of houses having rental value of Rs. 25 and below during 1940 is much below the average percentage of increase in rental value imposed by the Municipality in 1946 and also below the average percentage increase in the new taxation;

(*b*) are the Government aware that this inadequate provision has adversely affected a very large percentage of the tax-payers of Ernakulam?

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Minister for Revenue):*

(*a*) Without a comparative study which will involve much labour and time it is not possible to give an answer and the purposes served will not be commensurate with the trouble and labour spent therefor.

(*b*) In view of (*a*) no answer is possible to be given.

INCREASE IN THE COST OF LABOUR AND BUILDING MATERIALS

300. Mrs. T. Francis *(Ernakulam-Women):* Will Government be pleased to state the increase in the cost of labour, cost of building materials, etc., since 1940 and what percentage of increase over estimated cost of works is allowed to contractors in the execution of Government works?

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Minister for Public Works):* The cost of labour and local building materials has increased to about 300 per cent above the pre-war rates. Cost of materials such as cement, iron, timber from Government has increased by about 100 per cent over the pre-war rates. The tender rates generally vary between 250 per cent and 375 per cent above estimated rates.

301. Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Irinjalakkuda):*

(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the increase in the cost of Labour, cost of building materials, etc., since 1940 and;

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